

CYPE(6)-04-22- Paper to note 11

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Request for information on working with the third sector to provide mental health support services for children and young people.

Response from: West Wales Regional Partnership Board



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Eich Cyf/Your ref:Ein Cyf/ Our Ref:
Gofynnwch am/ Please ask for:

Dyddiad/ Date: 18th January 2022

Jayne Bryant
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Jayne,

I write in response to your letter dated 01st December 2021.

We continue to work effectively with the Third Sector as partners to enhance support available to Children and Young People in West Wales. Please find below our response to your letter.

1. Working alongside the Third Sector to plan and deliver support services

The West Wales Regional Partnership Board includes representatives from the Third Sector. The Children and Young People's Board also has Third Sector representation and will assist us as a region move towards a genuinely integrated approach. The key strategic priorities for the board include:

1. Children & Young People's Emotional Health
2. Supporting Children to remain with their Families
3. Meeting the needs of Children with Complex Needs

West Wales Action Mental Health (WWAMH) are members of the Local Mental Health Partnership Board. WWAMH also attend fortnightly Mental Health and Learning Disability Operational Planning meetings and have been a member of the COVID Bronze Group since the beginning of the Pandemic.

2. Active projects/initiatives undertaken alongside the third sector

There are several projects and initiatives undertaken across the Region where there is Third Sector involvement, supporting Children and Young People's Mental Health including:

- Art Therapy Groups
- Café Cash Credit via 'Give the Boys a Lift'
- Counselling support for care leavers

- Digital Connectivity Project, supporting those without access
- 'Working Together' working group of Parent/Carers of Disabled Children
- Job coach project – supporting children and young people across the region
- Mums Matter
- TONIC - Surf Therapy, working with S-CAMHS and other young people services

3. Partnership working, what has worked well/lessons learnt

We have established a Children & Young Peoples Operational Group, which will sit beneath the Children and Young Peoples Board. The operational group will provide an opportunity to share innovative solutions, good practice and identify areas for scaling up projects on a regional footprint.

In Pembrokeshire a review of emotional health and well-being services resulted in some good developments in the emotional health and wellbeing support provided in the county over the last 3-4 years, largely within services and sectors.

Establishing the Emotional Health and Wellbeing team to operate below the S-CAMHS level is one. Some new projects have also been set up by Third Sector organisations using, for example, National Lottery funding. Some new approaches are being piloted e.g., with GPs in the south cluster.

4. Future plans for partnership working with the Third Sector

The Children and Young Peoples Board and Operation Group will maximise opportunities for partnership working across the Region including the Third Sector.

The Health Board have developed a recommissioning timeline to reprocure the current Third Sector provided services across Mental Health and Learning Disability. This is due to take 18 months, reflecting the complexity of the process and the need to support the sector appropriately to prepare for the procurement exercise. In particular, the timescales allow for extra support to be given to smaller organisations through services such as Business Support Wales to ensure parity across all organisations, large and small. The Framework will allow Mental Health & Learning Disability services to work collaboratively with organisations, partners, service users and carers to develop new service specifications, encouraging fresh approaches and innovation.

The wholesale review of emotional and mental well-being services across Pembrokeshire has resulted in the appointment a project manager to develop and take forward an action plan for improving the cohesion of the variety of services provided. This will ensure the gaps in provision are reduced in Pembrokeshire; that communication and awareness of what's available is enhanced; and that delay in receiving the right services at the right time is reduced and eliminated. Several Third Sector organisations provide such services, and Service Level Agreements will be reviewed with each, to ensure their continued suitability, quality and to plan better for future need and associated responses to demand.

Yours sincerely,



Judith Hardisty
Chair, West Wales Regional Partnership Board